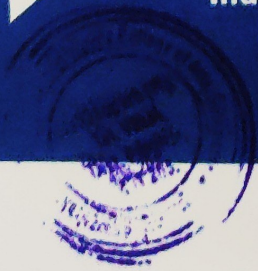


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## **National Conference**

On

# **Women Empowerment: Transcending Social Horizon**

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**WOMEN & EDUCATION**

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**ABSTRACT**

Education-basic, functional or digital, always enlightens a person from the darkness of ignorance and innocence. Awareness about importance of cleanliness, good habits and knowledge about various disciplines helps a woman to support her family and groom her children as better citizens of the society. The present paper focuses on status and importance of Women Education in India. Education leads to enlightenment as it facilitates knowledge, skills and abilities. It helps a person with average intelligence to identify the difference between right and wrong and hence good and bad practices in the society. In a way education helps a man to be more civilized, a responsible human being towards his family and society at large. Education is therefore considered to be one of the basic needs after food clothing and shelter. Access to basic education is therefore made compulsory by Governments of many countries all over the world. Article 13 of the United Nations' 1966 International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (UNESCO) recognizes the right of everyone to an education.

*Key Terms: Women Education, Empowerment*

**1) INTRODUCTION**

If you educate a man you educate an individual, however, if you educate a woman you educate a whole family. Women empowered means mother India empowered". – Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru Educated women can make valuable contributions towards development of family and thereby the society. Educated women have fewer and healthier babies and they are more likely to raise them to become educated and productive citizens like themselves creating a healthier and more stable society (UNICEF, 2007). Hence children of educated mother are having scope for wider career opportunities in future. This is because of the kind of education standards they build, learning from their mother. Unfortunately not many children in India have this opportunity. Further among the children, education to a girl child is given second preference when compared to a male child in the family. As per 2011 census the female literacy levels according to the Literacy Rate 2011 census are 65.46% where the male literacy rate is over 80%. Gender discrimination, though not new to Indian society, has been the reason for denial of education and thereby career opportunities to women in India. Status of Indian women has been subject to change since the dawn of history. Women were treated equally with men and they had access to education and employment during the pre- Vedic period. But during the post-Vedic period, series of foreign invasions reduced her status to 'property' which needs to be protected always. Gradually she was denied freedom to move out from her house, access to education and thereby employment. Religious and cultural obligations ruled her behavior depriving her of the freedom to make decision

**2) RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

Secondary data was collected from different research journals, books, reports and government websites.

**3) OBJECTIVES OF STUDY**

- a) To find out the general social position of women in the India.
- b) To know about the structure and functions of educational institutions .
- c) To find problems in girls education.

**4) HYPOTHESIS**

1. Development of women education is higher during post-independence.
2. The rate of literacy is lower.
3. There exist differences of educational development between sexes.
4. Education is the basic tool for empowering a woman.
5. Educated women are able to better contribute towards development .

**5) EDUCATION AND WOMEN**

A popular saying goes 'While educating a man benefits him alone, educating a woman benefits the whole family and the country at large'. It is a proven fact that children of educated women enjoy high education standards

